



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/767,463

01/28/2004

Joseph Kirk Ollis

50037.209US01

3622

27488 7590 10/09/2007  
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LE V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/09/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

mn

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/767,463	OLLIS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Le Nguyen	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,13-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 12 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 7/5/07.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application; and, claims 1, 10 and 17 are independent claims. Claims 1, 10, 12, 17 and 19 have been amended. This action is made Final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Screen Dumps of Microsoft Outlook ("MS Outlook").

As per claim 10, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items comprising a display configured to display items and a pinned items application that is configured to perform the following actions, including pinning an item selected by a user and automatically instructing the display to display the pinned item before non-pinned items such that the pinned item is distinguishable and prioritized higher than related non-pinned items (figs. 1-3 and 11; *users "pin" the items that are important to them by flagging it (fig. 1 depicts flagging items such as item 210 of fig. 2) and sort by flag status via double clicking on the flag icon 200 of the sort bar, the pinned items are displayed at the top of their list and are visually distinguishable from non-pinned items wherein the View<Current View<✓ By Follow-up Flag option automatically displays the pinned item*

*before non-pinned items; moreover, a special icon such as the flag icon is placed with the item showing that it is "pinned").*

As per claim 11, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein the pinned item includes an icon indicating that it is pinned (fig. 3; *highlighted pinned item includes a flag icon indicating that it has been pinned*).

As per claim 14, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein the pinned item application configured to manage pinned items (figs. 4 and 7-8(c); e.g. *the pinned item is moved relative to other items via drag-and-drop procedure (not shown) or by changing the sorting criteria to one of ascending ("Sort Ascending" of fig. 4), descending ("Sort Descending" of fig. 4), "Group By This Field" (fig. 4), "From" (fig. 4), "Received" (fig. 4), "Subject" (fig. 4), etc.)*).

As per claim 15, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein managing the pinned items comprises moving the pinned items within the pinned items list ((figs. 4 and 7-8(c); e.g. *managing the pinned item comprises moving the pinned items within the pinned items list via drag-and-drop procedure (not shown) or by changing the sorting criteria to one of ascending ("Sort Ascending" of fig. 4), descending ("Sort Descending" of fig. 4), "Group By This Field" (fig. 4), "From" (fig. 4), "Received" (fig. 4), "Subject" (fig. 4), etc.)*).

As per claim 16, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein managing the pinned items comprises deleting at least one of the pinned items (fig. 5; *selecting the "Delete" menu item deletes the highlighted pinned item*).

Claims 1 and 17 are individually similar in scope to claim 10 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 2 and 18 are individually similar in scope to claim 11 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 4, MS Outlook teaches a method for pinning and displaying items wherein the item to pin is selected from a group comprising a contact, a folder, a file, a field, an application, and a message (figs. 2-8(c)).

As per claims 5 and 20, MS Outlook teaches a method and computer readable medium for pinning and displaying items comprising creating a copy of the item selected to pin (*via copy-and-paste feature of fig. 5, i.e. Copy+ Paste*).

Claim 7 is similar in scope to claim 15 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 8 is similar in scope to claim 16 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 9, MS Outlook teaches a method for pinning and displaying items wherein deleting the pinned item comprises keeping a corresponding item within an unpinned item list (figs. 9-10; *selection of Find All > Related Messages of fig. 9 returns a list of related/corresponding messages of fig. 10 wherein deleting a pinned item comprises keeping a corresponding item within an unpinned item list*).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Screen Dumps of Microsoft Outlook ("MS Outlook") in view of March et al. ("March").

As per claim 13, although MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein instructing the display to display the pinned item comprises displaying the pinned item only when it is associated with a category currently being displayed (figs. 2 and 11; *displaying the pinned item only when the associated category, By Follow-up Flag, is currently being displayed (fig. 2); however, when the category is one of Unread Messages, the pinned item is not displayed (fig. 11)*), MS Outlook does not explicitly disclose the category to be a category view, i.e. user-defined category title such as Buds/Buddies. March teaches displaying a category view, i.e. user-defined category title such as Buds/Buddies (fig. 2; paragraph [0005]). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of March with the method of MS Outlook in order to organize contact lists into meaningful categories.

Claim 6 is similar in scope to claim 13 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 3, 12 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach, in combination with the remaining elements:

a list of items where an item is selected to be pinned so that it automatically will be displayed before non-pinned items, resulting in higher priority items (the pinned items) displayed before lower priority items (non-pinned items); moreover, when the item is selected for pinning, a copy is automatically created to be used *as the pin item* as recited in claims 3, 12 and 19.

Although MS Outlook and March teach a substantial amount of the claimed matters, MS Outlook and March fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 17 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, except for the following:

Applicant argued the following:

MS Outlook does not teach automatically displaying the pinned item before non-pinned items.

The Office disagrees for the following reasons:

The View<Current View<√ By Follow-up Flag option automatically displays the pinned item before non-pinned items (fig. 11).

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fickes et al. (US 6,526,274 B1) teach displaying pinned items (fig. 14).

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the parent application prior to the filing of this Continued Prosecution Application under 37 CFR 1.53(d) and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL even though it is a first action after the filing under 37 CFR 1.53(d). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of



the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Inquires***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lvn  
Patent Examiner  
September 28, 2007

*Kristine Kincaid*  
KRISTINE KINCAID  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100